

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 IO-13

OMB-01 EB-11 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 RSR-01

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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

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PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. JENKA

E. O. 11652: N/ A, DECON 6/14/74

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, VN, VS, US

SUBJ: THO PRESS CONFERENCE, JUNE 14, 1973

1. LE DUC THO HELD A ONE- HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE KLEBER CENTER JUNE 14. IN A SIX- PAGE PRINTED STATEMENT THO DESCRIBED THE MAY- JUNE NEGOTIATIONS AS ACHIEVING " POSITIVE RESULTS" THROUGH ISSUANCE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THE LATTER' S " ESSENTIAL POINTS" WERE: US TERMINATION OF RECONNAISSANCE, RESUMPTION OF MINE CLEARANCE, AND RESUMPTION OF JEC DELIBERATIONS; IN SVN, A NEW CEASE- FIRE AND DELIMITATION OF ZONES OF CONTROL, RELEASE OF CIVIL DETAINEES, RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS AND FORMATION OF NCRC. ON CAMBODIA, THE STATEMENT REITERATED UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK, THEN AFFIRMED THAT THE DRV COMMITS ITSELF TO SCRUPULOUS APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 20 OF THE AGREEMENT AND REQUIRES OTHER SIGNATORIES DO THE SAME.

2. IN CLOSING, THE STATEMENT TERMED THE COMMUNIQUE AN
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" IMPORTANT NEW VICTORY" FOR THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE' S STRUGGLE TO OBTAIN STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS, AND PLEDGED THAT THE DRV AND PRG " WILL SCRUPULOUSLY AND SERIOUSLY RESPECT AND APPLY THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, THE AGREEMENT, AND ITS PROTOCOLS". (FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT AVAILABLE IN FBIS MATERIAL).

3. SIGNIFICANT RESPONSES DURING THE SUBSEQUENT QUESTION PERIOD WERE THESE: (A) THE NEGOTIATIONS - EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF EACH OF THE COMMUNIQUE' S FOURTEEN POINTS HAD TAKEN PLACE; NO SECRET AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN CONCLUDED; (B) SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS - WHILE EXPRESSING HOPE NONE ON SUBJECTS TREATED IN THE COMMUNIQUE WOULD BECOME NECESSARY, THO HINTED THAT HE AND DR. KISSINGER MIGHT MEET AGAIN CONCERNING AN UNDISCLOSED MATTER OF ANOTHER KIND, KEPT IN SECRECY BETWEEN THEM; (C) JEC - THO SAID THAT THE COMMISSION HAD ALREADY COMPLETED THE MAJOR OUTLINES OF ITS WORK (N. B. LEAVING AN IMPLICATION THAT THE SUMS INVOLVED HAD BEEN AGREED), AND ONLY DETAILED ASPECTS REMAINED FOR COMPLETION; (D) GVN COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNIQUE - THO' S RESPONSE WAS THAT " AFTER THE SIGNING DR. KISSINGER PROMISED TO IMPLEMENT AND RESPECT" THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMMUNIQUE; (E) CAMBODIA - CONCERNING US BOMBING, THO REPLIED INDIRECTLY, MAINTAINING THAT " US WARFARE" IN CAMBODIA HAD AROUSED PROTESTS WORLD- WIDE; (F) LEGITIMACY IN SVN - THE " CONTEXT" OF THE 1954 GENEVA ACCORD WAS NO LONGER APPLICABLE, FOR THE PRG HAD COME INTO EXISTENCE AND ENJOYED BOTH LEGITIMACY AND VIABILITY. GENERAL ELECTIONS - WHICH THO DESCRIBED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AS CONTINGENT UPON AN EFFECTIVE CEASE- FIRE, RESTORATION OF LIBERTY, ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CONCORD, ETC. - WERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELIMINATING THE " PRESENT UNDEMOCRATIC" GVN; (G) THO' S TRAVEL - HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD DEPART FOR HANOI JUNE 16.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JECPA16472
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: JEC PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730619/aaaajasw.tel
Line Count: 101
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <16-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980206
Subject: THO PRESS CONFERENCE, JUNE 14, 1973
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, US
To: EA
SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005